

What is claimed:

Jack A

1 1. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device having a trench element
2 isolation region including a trench and a trench insulating layer that fills the trench, the
3 method comprising the steps of:
4 (A) forming a polishing stopper layer over a substrate, the polishing stopper layer
5 having a predetermined pattern for a chemical-mechanical polishing;
6 (B) removing a part of the substrate using a mask layer including at least the
7 polishing stopper layer as a mask to form a trench;
8 (C) forming a trench oxide film over a surface of the substrate that forms the trench;
9 (D) forming an insulating layer that fills the trench over an entire surface of the
10 substrate;
11 (E) polishing the insulating layer by a chemical-mechanical polishing;
12 (F) removing the polishing stopper layer; and
13 (G) etching a part of the insulating layer to form a trench insulating layer,
14 wherein the method further includes the step (a) of forming an etching stopper layer
15 for the trench oxide film over at least a portion of the trench oxide film, and wherein, in the
16 step (G), the etching stopper layer is more resistant to the etching than insulating layer.

1 2. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 1,
2 wherein, in the step (G), a selective etching ratio of the insulating layer with respect to the
3 etching stopper layer is 10 or greater.
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1 3. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 1,
2 wherein the etching stopper layer is formed to cover a side surface of the trench oxide film.

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1 4. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 1,
2 wherein the etching stopper layer is a silicon nitride layer.

1 *D-Cont'd* 75. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according claim 4,
2 wherein the silicon nitride layer has a thickness of 10 – 50 nm.

1 6. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 1,
2 wherein the etching stopper layer is a non-monocrystal silicon layer.

1 7. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according claim 6,
2 wherein the non-monocrystal silicon layer is selected from the group consisting of a
3 polycrystal silicon layer, an amorphous silicon layer or a multiple layer having a polycrystal
4 silicon layer and an amorphous silicon layer.

1 8. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according claim 6,
2 wherein the non-monocrystal silicon layer has a thickness of 20 – 50 nm.

1 9. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 6,
2 further comprising, after the step (G), the step (b) of thermally oxidizing a portion of the
3 non-monocrystal layer that protrudes from the surface of the substrate in an element forming
4 region to form a silicon oxide film.

1 10. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device according claim 9,
2 wherein the silicon oxide film is removed at the same time as the step (G).

1 11. A semiconductor device comprising trench element isolation regions,
2 wherein at least one of the trench element isolation regions includes a trench oxide film
3 formed on a surface of a substrate that forms a trench, and a trench insulating layer formed
4 in the trench, wherein an etching stopper layer is formed such that a surface of the trench
5 oxide film on a side wherein the trench insulating layer is formed is not exposed.

1 12. A semiconductor device comprising trench element isolation regions,
2 wherein at least one of the trench element isolation regions comprises:
3 a trench oxide film formed on a surface of a substrate that forms a trench,
4 a trench insulating layer formed in the trench, and
5 an etching stopper layer formed between the trench oxide film and the trench
6 insulating layer.

1 13. A semiconductor device according to claim 12, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer is formed from a material having a selective etching ratio of the insulating layer to the
3 etching stopper layer of at least ~~ten~~ (10) when an etchant including hydrofluoric acid is used.

1 14. A semiconductor device according to claim 12, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer is formed on a surface of the trench oxide film.

1 15. A semiconductor device according to claim 12, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer comprises a silicon nitride layer.

1 16. A semiconductor device according to claim 12, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer is a silicon nitride layer having a thickness of 10 – 50 nm.

1 17. A semiconductor device according to claim 12, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer comprises a non-monocrystal silicon layer.

1 18. A semiconductor device according to claim 12, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer is a non-monocrystal silicon layer having a thickness of 20 – 50 nm.

1 19. A semiconductor device according to claim 18, wherein the non-monocrystal
2 silicon layer is selected from the group consisting of a polycrystal silicon layer, an
3 amorphous silicon layer or a multiple layer having a polycrystal silicon layer and an
4 amorphous silicon layer.

1 20. A semiconductor device according to claim 11, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer is formed from a material having a selective etching ratio of the insulating layer to the
3 etching stopper layer of at least ten (10) when an etchant including hydrofluoric acid is used.

1 21. A semiconductor device according to claim 11, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer comprises a silicon nitride layer.

1 22. A semiconductor device according to claim 11, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer is a silicon nitride layer having a thickness of 10 – 50 nm.

1 23. A semiconductor device according to claim 11, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer comprises a non-monocrystal silicon layer.

1 24. A semiconductor device according to claim 11, wherein the etching stopper
2 layer is a non-monocrystal silicon layer having a thickness of 20 – 50 nm.

1 25. A semiconductor device according to claim 24, wherein the non-monocrystal
2 silicon layer is selected from the group consisting of a polycrystal silicon layer, an
3 amorphous silicon layer or a multiple layer having a polycrystal silicon layer and an
4 amorphous silicon layer.

- 1 26. A method for manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:
2 forming a trench comprising a lower surface and two side surfaces in a substrate
3 comprising silicon;
4 forming a trench oxide layer on the lower surface and side surfaces;
5 forming an etch stop layer in direct contact with the trench oxide layer on the lower
6 surface and side surfaces; B
7 filling the trench with an insulating layer directly contacting the etch stop layer,
8 wherein the insulating layer overfills the trench and extends above the trench as defined by
9 the two side surfaces; and
10 etching the insulating layer using an etchant that selectively etches the etch stop layer
11 at a rate that is slower than that of the insulating layer.

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